

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)

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US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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Funds to Improve Little Mountain Interchange Released

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that the U.S. Department of Transportation has granted to the state \$496,750 for long-needed safety improvements to the on-ramp of the Little Mountain interchange on Interstate 26. The federal funds were secured by Spratt in legislation Congress passed in February.

The Little Mountain interchange is the closest access to I-26 for the towns of Pomaria, Little Mountain, and Lake Murray, all suburbs of Columbia. The on-ramp toward Columbia does not meet South Carolina highway standards, and it is the shortest on I-26. Cars cannot accelerate sufficiently to merge safely onto the highway during heavy traffic, leaving the ramp stacked with waiting vehicles.

“The interchange poses a safety problem to thousands of motorists each day,” said Spratt. “A longer on-ramp will correct this problem, and its construction will mean jobs for the area.”

Spratt said Little Mountain has acquired right-of-ways for a new on-ramp, and the state transportation department has developed a construction plan. To date, state budget cuts have kept the project from moving forward.

“These funds will probably not pay the full cost of improving this interchange,” said Spratt, “but they will make it far easier for the S.C. Department of Transportation to undertake the project, and I hope they will follow through with the remaining funds required.”

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